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Appendix D

COMMENTS ON ID'S UNDERSTANDING OF AND
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT BRANCH

1. Concentration on intensive assessment means for the IO that test interpretation and standard assessment should be dropped from the functions of this Branch and assigned to a proposed Management Branch. I have already discussed some of the reasons why I oppose such a move. I add only that it is more efficient both from a management and from a psychological point of view to keep the assessment functions together. As long as the A&E Staff exists as a unit, it is more efficient for it to be organized in terms of functions which have psychological meaning rather than by the component served.

a. Applying intensive assessment to all problems presented by a component leads to further inefficiency. Many questions can be answered on the basis of the simpler procedure of standard assessment.

b. In my opinion, the intensive assessment process will, in the long run, suffer without the experience gained through test interpretation and standard assessment.

2. Conduct of research requires specially trained personnel, most of whom are not suited for conducting assessments. I see no gain in assigning to the Assessment Branch such personnel. I do see a gain in the Assessment Branch personnel assuming a more active role in serving the DD/P by supporting operations and undertaking exploratory studies. And I am heartily in favor of expanding services to the DD/P, not only on the part of the Assessment Branch, but on the part of the entire AES.

3. The responsibility for developing better relations with the clandestine services belongs to C/AES. It is not appropriately assigned to a single element of the Staff, as the ID recommends.

4. I concur in the ID's recommendation that fuller utilization be made of TSS services. It should be noted that progress has been made in this direction during the past year.